

Office of the Secretary, USDA

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become effective until the State committee and the Deputy Administrator have determined that dismissal was not because of such reasons;

(3) Direct the activities of the local committees elected in the county;

(4) Pursuant to official instructions, review, approve, and certify forms, reports, and documents requiring such action in accordance with such instructions;

(5) Recommend to the State committee needed changes in boundaries of community and local administrative areas;

(6) Make available to farmers and the public, information concerning the objectives and operations of the programs administered through the county committee;

(7) Make available to agencies of the Federal Government and others information with respect to the county committee activities in accordance with official instructions issued;

(8) Give public notice of the designation and boundaries of each community within the county not less than 50 days prior to the election of community committee members and delegates;

(9) Direct the giving of notices in accordance with applicable regulations and official instructions;

(10) Recommend to the State committee desirable changes in or additions to existing programs;

(11) Conduct such hearings and investigations as the State committee may request; and

(12) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the State committee.

§ 7.22 Community committee duties.

(a) The community committee shall be subject to the general direction and supervision of the county committee.

(b) The community committee shall:

(1) Serve as an advisor and consultant to the county committee;

(2) Periodically meet with the county committee and State committee to be informed on farm program issues;

(3) Communicate with producers on issues or concerns regarding farm programs;

(4) Report to the county committee, the State committee, and other interested persons on changes to, or modi-

fication of, farm programs recommended by producers;

(5) Perform such other functions as are required by law or as the Secretary or a designee of the Secretary may specify.

§ 7.23 Chairperson of the county committee duties.

The chairperson of the county committee or the person acting as the chairperson shall preside at meetings of the county committee, certify such documents as may require the chairperson's certification, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the State committee.

§ 7.24 Chairperson of the community committee duties.

The chairperson of the community committee or the person acting as the chairperson shall preside at meetings of the community committee, and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the county committee.

§ 7.25 County executive director duties.

(a) The county executive director shall execute the policies established by the county committee and be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the county office.

(b) The county executive director shall:

(1) In accordance with standards and qualifications furnished by the State committee, employ the personnel of the county office to serve at the pleasure of the county executive director. There shall be no employment discrimination due to race, religion, color, sex, age, or national origin. An employee may not be removed under this paragraph for advocating or carrying out the Department's policy on equal opportunity and civil rights, including the equal employment policy. In the event it is claimed that the dismissal is for such reason, the dismissal shall not become effective until the State committee and the Deputy Administrator have determined that dismissal was not because of such reason;

(2) Receive, dispose of, and account for all funds, negotiable instruments, or property coming into the custody of the county committee;

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(3) Serve as counselor to the local administrative area and county convention chairperson on election procedures; and

(4) Supervise, under the direction of the county committee, the activities of the community committees elected in the county.

§ 7.26 Private business activity and conflicts of interest.

(a) No county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or county office employee shall at any time use such office or employment to promote any private business interest.

(b) County committee members, community committee members, delegates, or alternates, and any person employed in the county office shall be subject to the official instructions issued with respect to conflicts of interest and proper conduct.

§ 7.27 Political activity.

(a) No person may be a member of the county governing body or hold a Federal, State, or county office filled by an election held pursuant to law or be employed by any such office and also hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to such office, or be employed in any capacity, except, that members of school boards, soil conservation district boards, weed control district boards, or of similar boards are not ineligible to hold office or employment under this paragraph solely because of membership on such boards.

(b) No person may be a candidate for membership on the county governing body or for any Federal, State, or county office filled by an election held pursuant to law and hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or be employed in any capacity, except, that candidates for school boards, soil conservation district boards, irrigation district boards, drainage district boards, weed control district boards, or for similar boards are not ineligible to hold office or employment under this subsection solely because of candidacy for such boards.

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(c) No person may be an officer, employee, or delegate to a convention of any political party or political organization and hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or be employed in any capacity.

(d) The tenure of office of any county committee member, community committee member, delegate, alternate to any such office, or the employment of any employee, shall be automatically terminated as soon as any such person becomes ineligible for office of employment under the provisions of paragraph (a), (b), or (c) of this section.

(e) No county committee member, community committee member, delegate, or alternate to any such office, or any employee shall at any time engage in the following political activities:

(1) Solicit or receive any contributions (including the sale of tickets) for political party organizations or for a candidate for political office or for any other political purpose in any room or building used for the transaction of any Federal official business, or at any place from any other county committee member, community committee member, delegate, or alternate to any such office or employee.

(2) Use official authority or influence to discharge, remove, demote, or promote any employee, or threaten or promise to so do, for withholding or giving contributions (including the buying or the refusal to buy tickets) for political purposes, or for supporting or opposing any candidate or any political organization in any primary, general, or special election for political office.

(3) Use or direct or permit the use of any official space, equipment, materials, supplies, or personal services either to support or oppose any political office holder, candidate or party, or for any other political purpose.

(f) A county committee member or alternate to such office, an employee on any day when entitled to receive pay for services in performance of duties, or an employee who serves during a continuous period of 90 days or more and has a regular tour of duty established in advance at any time, shall not solicit, collect, receive, disburse, or